



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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LPB 349/20

STAFF REPORT: Rainier Beach High School – 8815 Seward Park Avenue S

Staff Recommendation

Staff does not recommend nomination of the Rainier Beach High School at 8815 Seward Park Avenue S as it does not appear to meet any of the designation standards.

The Landmarks Board Coordinator acknowledges the cultural history associated with the school, and the association of numerous individuals of importance, but believes this may not be embodied in the older portions of the building itself. This assessment was informed by a site visit and thorough review of the entire property on August 24, 2020.

Approval of Nomination

If approved, a public meeting would be set for 30-60 days from nomination to consider the designation. During this time, the Board and staff may amend the nomination form. From the time of nomination, Subchapter VI of SMC 25.12 shall apply. This section requires a Certificate of Approval for alterations or significant changes to the features proposed for preservation. Following Board approval of the nomination (or designation) the owner may give written notice of a desire to confer and consult with the Board and Board staff to reach agreement on specific features to be preserved and methods to achieve such preservation. A timetable is established by Board, Board staff and the Owner. This written request by the Owner is the only procedure which may alter the time requirements or the public meeting on designation.

Disapproval of Nomination

If the Board fails to approve the nomination, no new proceeding may be commenced for a period of 10 years without the written agreement of the Owner.

Deferral of Consideration

The Board may defer consideration. Adequate notice should be given to all parties about when the matter is to be reconsidered. Once nominated, the Board must follow the procedures of SMC 25.12 and approve or disapprove the designation.

Suggested Language for a Nomination Motion

“I move that the Board approve the nomination of the Rainier Beach High School at 8815 Seward Park Avenue S for consideration as a Seattle Landmark; noting the legal description in the Nomination Form; that the features and characteristics proposed for preservation include: _____; that the public meeting for Board consideration of designation be scheduled for October 21, 2020; that this action conforms to the known comprehensive and development plans of the City of Seattle.”

Suggested Language for Disapproval of Nomination

“I move that the Board not approve the nomination of the Rainier Beach High School at 8815 Seward Park Avenue S as a Seattle Landmark, as it does not meet any of the designation standards, as required by SMC 25.12.350.(or give other reasons)”

Issued: September 10, 2020